(f) whether Government propose to withdraw the rigs from West Bengal, Bihar, Tripura, Gujarat and Maharashtra; and

(g) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA) : (a) Yes, Sir. At present 26 charter hired rigs are working for ONGC.

(b) The number of rigs hired from different countries and the total rent paid during the last three years is as follows:—

Year	Total No. of rigs hired	Total rent paid (Rs./crores)
1991-92	6	92.98
1992-93	6	168.76
1993-94	8	131.88

(c) The internal market rates for rigs are not available since ONGC hires rigs against global tendering and the rates received are internationally competitive.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) and (g) At present ONGC docs not propose to withdraw any rig from West Bengal, Tripura and Gujarat. There is no rig in operation in Bihar and Maharashtra as on 1.1.1995.

Crude output from Cam bay and Assam basins

2554. DR. BAPU KALDATE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that crude output from Cambay and Assam basins has been dwindling and the projected production target for the Eighth Five Year Plan is not likely *to* be achieved;

(b) if so, what is the progressive shortfall in the crude output from Cambay and Assam basins during the last three years and what is the ultimate shortfall anticipated during the plan period;

(c) what is the likely impact on the refineries linked to the region's crude oil; and

(d) the manner in which Government propose to move in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA) : (a) and (b) During the three year period 1992-93, 1993-94 and 1994-95, a shortfall in crude oil production to the extent of about 4.13 million tonnes in Cambay basin and about 5.01 million tonnes in Assam basin is expected with reference to the Eighth Plan target fixed in Sept.' 91. During the entire plan period a total shortfall in production to the extent of about 17,49 million tonnes is expected from these two basins.

(c) and (d) The shortfall in indigenous production of crude oil is met through imports.

Effect of decontrol on petroleum products on the fertilizer industry

2555. SHRI JOYANTA ROY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government's decontrol of prices of petroleum products will adversely affect the fertilizer industry since it would experience difficulty in accommodating a higher price which will be consequential eventuality, and NAPTHA, an essential ingredient for production of fertilizer, will cost much more; and

(b) if so, what measures are being contemplated in this, regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA) : (a) and (b) A "Strategic